

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study and identify adequate funding sources for women's health issues.

WHEREAS, women's health issues are of paramount concern to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the paucity of clinical research and preventive medicine dedicated to women's health problems is appalling; and

WHEREAS, nationally one (1) in eight (8) women is expected to contract breast cancer in her lifetime, a statistic which has doubled in the last twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, nationally, every three (3) minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, and every twelve (12) minutes a woman dies from the disease; and

WHEREAS, more than 950,000 women in the United States have died of breast cancer since 1960. This is twice the number of Americans who died in World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War combined; and

WHEREAS, because the tools to prevent and cure breast cancer do not exist, it is crucial that earlier methods of detection be developed to increase a woman's chances of surviving breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, mammograms are important because they can detect approximately eighty percent (80%) of all tumors. Mammograms do not prevent or cure the cancer, they can only detect the disease; and

WHEREAS, because women generally outlive men, they are increasingly likely to suffer from chronic illnesses or other disabilities that require continuing care for longer and longer periods. In 1980 there were eighty (80) men for each one hundred (100) women aged sixty-five

(65) to sixty-nine (69), but only forty-four (44) men for each one hundred (100) women in the eighty-five (85) and over bracket; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of acute conditions in women is twenty percent (20%) to thirty percent (30%) higher than in men. Also, women suffer from more nonfatal chronic conditions than men, and they show consistently higher rates of short-term disability; and

WHEREAS, of all fatal strokes, sixty-one percent (61%) occur in women; and

WHEREAS, because of this disturbing litany of statistics relative to women's health issues, and a host of other equally disturbing facts about women's health, it is time for the General Assembly to address this extremely important issue directly, and take appropriate measures to rectify our shortcomings in adequately funding women's health programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study and identify adequate funding sources for women's health issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be charged with the following responsibilities and duties:

- (1) Establishing cooperative efforts with the department of health to improve breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention and control;
- (2) Ensuring the inclusion of women's health problems in biomedical and biobehavioral clinical research studies conducted by state colleges and universities;
- (3) Reviewing available statistics relative to women's health in Tennessee, to include but not be limited to, the number of women by age, race and income categories who have pap smears and mammograms performed;
- (4) Examining the effect of the TennCare program, and other publicly funded health and social programs, on women's health, for example, the extraordinarily low incidence of epidurals used during childbirth under such programs; and

(5) Promulgating and establishing comprehensive educational programs for women relative to neonatal care, prenatal care and other aspects of child care, heart disease, AIDS, cancer, lung disease and early detection and intervention procedures for other diseases and medical conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and two (2) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective Speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special joint committee, upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly. At its first meeting, the special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair and such other officers that the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1996, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.